

second Masters Degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. Cohen also holds a Master's Degree in History from Montclair State University. She has taken graduate courses in history at Harvard University, where she was schooled under the President of the Library of Congress.

Adrea was formerly a tenured teacher of English, history, and literature in the City of Passaic, from 1958 to 1964, a school librarian in the City of Passaic from 1964 to 1966, she was a supervisor of student teachers for Montclair State University, and a teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language) and she also taught English in the Wayne and Passaic Adult Schools for 15 years.

Many people in the community of Belleville, New Jersey have benefited from Adrea's vast commitment to civil programs. She has been made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club, as well as served as their public relations chair. She was the literature chair of the Woman's Club, and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce. She is a past president of Zonta International of the Greater Wayne area. She has served as president of the administration section of NJLA and is still an active member of the first regional library cooperative.

She has served as president of libraries in focus, a Cablevision consortium for Essex County libraries and has actively videotaped over one hundred programs at the library for the past ten years, which have appeared on local cablevision. She has also held a yearly Martin Luther King, Jr. event at School No. 9 in Paterson, New Jersey, and has worked closely with local artists and photographers whose work she has displayed in the library.

In the spring, Adrea will be honored by Kappa Delta Phi, New York University, as Educator of the Year for her library directorship and contributions to the community. The award will be presented to her by the United States Ambassador and deputy governor, Dr. Inez Bull.

Adrea has been married to Roy Cohen for 37 years, and has two children, Pamela and Bonnie Cohen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Adrea's family, friends, and coworkers, the Belleville Library and Information Center, and Township of Belleville, New Jersey, in thanking Mrs. Adrea Cohen for all her years of service to the community and congratulating her on her well deserved retirement, her presence will be greatly missed.

REGARDING THE SBC-AMERITECH MERGER

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of recent, very positive developments involving the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications. I was delighted when the Justice Department gave its green light to the merger on March 23rd. This approval followed a thorough review by the Justice Department and confirms that the merger is not anti-competitive.

The merger approval by DOJ was followed by a favorable recommendation from a hear-

ing examiner for the Illinois Commerce Commission. Then, just last week, the Public Utility Commission of Ohio formally voted to approve the merger. I would also note that the Rainbow-PUSH Coalition endorsed the merger on March 29th. In announcing its support, the Coalition said, "Rainbow PUSH found that these companies are truly concerned about implementing corporate practices that favor workers and consumers, creating employment opportunities and fostering small business growth." Additionally, the Coalition pointed out that the merger enjoys strong, broad-based support from organized labor.

Ameritech announced on April 6th that, consistent with the conditions imposed on the merger by the Justice Department, it was selling half of its cellular properties to GTE Corp. for about \$3.3 billion. One of GTE's principal allies in this transaction is Georgetown Partners, a minority owned and operated company. Assuming the merger is approved, Georgetown Partners will become one of the most significant minority-owned communications firms in the United States.

While all of these developments are extremely positive, Mr. Speaker, I must express my strong concern over FCC Chairman Bill Kennard's recent action adding a new, and unprecedented, hearing process to the Commission's deliberations on the Ameritech-SBC merger. I appreciate the Chairman's desire for thoroughness, but I must question the fairness of injecting such a process in a deliberation that has now been before the FCC for almost eleven months.

In conclusion, I would note that as long as this merger remains in limbo before the FCC, it substantially harms the competitive positions of both companies in the national and international markets. I hope we keep in mind that, between them, Ameritech and SBC employ more than 200,000 people. Many of these people are my constituents in the 2nd District of Illinois. I strongly encourage the FCC to consider the Ameritech-SBC merger with the same efficiency and fairness that it has considered other recent mergers in the highly competitive telecommunications industry.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today at a news conference, Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I reintroduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, a bill to benefit school children and teachers all across this country.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act will direct federal funding for elementary and secondary education directly to the states, requiring that 95% of K-12 funding reach classrooms and teachers. This Act passed the House in the 105th Congress 212-198. Joining us today in support of the bill were seventh and eighth-grade students from Charles Patton Middle School in Unionville, PA, along with their teachers, Math and History teacher Shannon Tate and Spanish teacher Christine Bailey. Maryland public school administrator Stephen Wallis also spoke on behalf of the legislation.

Senator HUTCHINSON and I have been working on this legislation because we believe in

the importance of doing all that we can to improve the academic achievement of our public school children. How do we accomplish that? We believe that empowering the teachers and bolstering the classroom resources of our kids directly improves their learning process. One of the young middle school students presented the need for the Dollars to the Classroom Act better than anyone else could. Seventh-grader Cole Allen said, "The geography books that we use were printed when our teacher was in eighth grade. Well a lot has changed since then. They should be called 'The Geography of the world as it was 13 years ago.'" As Cole pointed out, many teachers use their own funds to buy tools for their classrooms, because so much of education funding gets eaten up before it makes it to the classroom.

When we think of our children's efforts to learn, we often think of the tools that go into forming and shaping their young minds: tools like books, classrooms, computers . . . and things like flash cards, spelling tests, and calculators. Yet, many of our federal dollars that go to elementary and secondary education do not reach our kids. That's why we've come up with the Dollars to the Classroom Act. This is a simple concept. Instead of keeping education dollars here in Washington, let's ensure that 95 cents on every federal dollar is sent directly to parents, teachers, and principals who are truly helping our children in the learning process.

Passage of the Dollars to the Classroom Act would mean \$870 million in new dollars for school children across the country. That means an additional \$10,000 for each public school in America. That also translates into \$450 for every class in America.

This is a common sense step in our efforts to improve public education for the students of the next millennium.

THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

Over the past few decades the contribution of women-owned businesses to our economy has grown exponentially. Today, the 8 million women-owned firms in this country contribute more than \$2.3 trillion annually to the U.S. economy and offer jobs to one out of every five U.S. workers. Moreover, women-owned businesses are now starting at twice the rate of all other businesses in the United States, and, by the year 2000, it is expected that nearly one out of every two businesses will be owned by a woman. In my home state of New Mexico, in particular, women-owned firms account for 41 percent of all businesses, provide employment for over 35 percent of the state's workforce, and generate 21 percent of all sales. This success is even more remarkable in that it ranks New Mexico third of all the states in women-owned business incorporations—a statistic that identifies women-owned firms as an important part of New Mexico's efforts to improve the lives of all its residents.